

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) A sectional footwear piece comprising:
2 a base section, wherein the base section includes an upper and a sole **having an**
3 **outer portion of a rear sole perimeter**, formed as a first part molded from a first continuous
4 piece of lofted foam material; and
5 a strap section **having an inner portion**, wherein the strap section is formed as a
6 second part molded from a second continuous piece of said lofted foam material, and wherein the
7 strap section is attached to the base section such that the strap **contacts the base section and**
8 **pivots relative to the base section**; and wherein
9 ~~the lofted foam material comprises a resin mixture that exhibits an expansion~~
10 ~~coefficient and a contraction coefficient, the multiplication product (final growth value) of which~~
11 ~~is between 1.36 and 1.58, inclusively~~
12 **a frictional force between the strap section and the base section at the contact**
13 **between the inner portion of the strap section and the outer portion of the rear sole**
14 **perimeter maintains the strap section fixed relative to the base section.**

Claims 2-8 (canceled).

1 9. (Previously Presented) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein
2 the strap section is attached to the base section by a first and a second rivet made of plastic that is
3 denser than the lofted foam material, wherein the first rivet fastens a first end of the strap section
4 to a first side of the base section, and wherein the second rivet fastens a second end of the strap
5 section to a second side of the base section.

Claims 10-11 (canceled).

1 12. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 9, wherein the first rivet
2 is placed at a first attachment point, wherein the second rivet is placed at a second attachment
3 point, wherein the base section includes a rear sole perimeter, and wherein the distance from the
4 first attachment point to the second attachment point along the rear sole perimeter is
5 approximately the same distance from the first attachment point to the second attachment point
6 along the strap section.

1 13. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 12, wherein the strap
2 section can pivot relative to the base section such that an inner portion of the strap section
3 contacts an outer portion of the rear sole perimeter.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The sectional footwear piece of ~~claim 13~~ **claim 1**,
2 wherein ~~a frictional force between the strap section and the base section at the contact between~~
3 ~~the inner portion of the strap section and the outer portion of the rear sole perimeter maintains~~
4 ~~the strap section fixed relative to the base section~~ **the lofted foam material comprises a resin**
5 **mixture that exhibits an expansion coefficient and a contraction coefficient, the final**
6 **growth value of which resin mixture is between 1.46 and 1.58, inclusively.**

1 15. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 9, wherein the first rivet
2 is placed at a first attachment point, wherein the second rivet is placed at a second attachment
3 point, wherein the base section includes a upper opening perimeter, and wherein the distance
4 from the first attachment point to the second attachment point along the upper opening perimeter
5 is approximately the same distance from the first attachment point to the second attachment point
6 along the strap section.

1 16. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 15, wherein the strap
2 section can pivot relative to the base section such that an inner portion of the strap section
3 contacts an outer portion of the upper opening perimeter.

17. (Canceled).

1 18. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 9, wherein the first rivet
2 is placed at a first attachment point, wherein the second rivet is placed at a second attachment
3 point, wherein the base section includes a upper opening perimeter, wherein the base section
4 includes a rear sole perimeter, wherein the distance from the first attachment point to the second
5 attachment point along the upper opening perimeter is approximately the same distance from the
6 first attachment point to the second attachment point along the strap section; and wherein the
7 distance from the first attachment point to the second attachment point along the rear sole
8 perimeter is approximately the same distance from the first attachment point to the second
9 attachment point along the strap section.

1 19. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein a plurality of
2 ventilators are formed in the upper.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The sectional footwear piece of claim 19, wherein
2 the upper comprises a substantially horizontal portion and a substantially vertical portion,
3 wherein at least one of the plurality of ventilators is formed in the substantially vertical portion
4 extending up a majority of the height of the vertical portion, and wherein at least one of the
5 plurality of ventilators is formed in the substantially horizontal portion.

1 21. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 19, wherein the upper
2 includes a substantially vertical region, wherein the substantially vertical region includes a toe
3 region and opposing side regions, wherein the toe region is a solid portion, and wherein at least
4 some of the plurality of ventilators are formed in the side regions.

1 22. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein a toe region
2 of the upper is extended at a location corresponding to the larger toes of the human foot, and
3 wherein the toe region of the upper generally follows the contour of a human foot

1 23. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein the sole
2 comprises a rear sole perimeter and a support base, and wherein the rear sole perimeter is raised
3 above the support base.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein
2 the sole comprises a support base, and wherein the support base includes a raised pattern
3 extending throughout the surface where a foot contacts the support base.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein
2 the sole comprises a bottom surface and a support base, and wherein the support base includes a
3 raised pattern extending throughout the surface where a foot contacts the support base.

1 26. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 1, wherein the strap
2 section is attached to the base section through use of a punched hole.

1 27. (Original) The sectional footwear piece of claim 26, wherein a plurality of
2 ventilators in the form of holes are formed in the upper as part of manufacturing the base section.

Claims 28-32 (canceled).

1 33. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a sectional footwear piece, the
2 method comprising:
3 molding a base section, wherein the base section includes an upper and a
4 sole;
5 molding a strap section; and
6 attaching the strap section to the base section such that the strap pivots
7 relative to the base section.

1 34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein attaching the strap section
2 to the base section includes riveting a first end of the strap section to a first side of the base
3 section, and riveting a second end of the strap section to a second side of the base section.

1 35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein attaching the strap section
2 to the base section further includes punching a first hole in the first side of the base section, and
3 punching a second hole in the second side of the base section.

1 36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the base section includes a
2 rear sole perimeter and an upper opening perimeter, and wherein the first hole in the first side of
3 the base section is located approximately equidistant from a midway point of the rear sole
4 perimeter and from a midway point of the upper opening perimeter.

1 37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the base section includes a
2 rear sole perimeter and an upper opening perimeter, and wherein the distance from the first hole in
3 the first side of the base section to the second hole in the second side of the base section
4 measured along the rear sole perimeter is approximately the same as the distance from the first
5 hole in the first side of the base section to the second hole in the second side of the base section
6 measured along the upper opening perimeter.

1 38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein attaching the strap section
2 to the base section further includes punching a first hole in the first end of the strap section, and
3 punching a second hole in the second end of the strap section.

1 39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein riveting the first end of the
2 strap section to the first side of the base section includes placing a side of a rivet through the first
3 hole in the first end of the strap section and through the first hole in the first side of the base
4 section.

1 40. (Currently Amended) The sectional footwear piece of claim 14, wherein
2 the resin mixture comprises a resin, a growth additive and a color pigment.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The sectional footwear piece of claim 40, wherein
2 the final growth value of the resin mixture is adjusted depending on the color pigment in the
3 resin mixture thereby maintaining a relatively consistent footwear piece size regardless of color.

1 42. (Currently Amended) A sectional footwear piece, the sectional footwear
2 piece comprising:

3 a base section, wherein the base section includes an upper and a sole **having an**
4 **outer portion of a rear sole perimeter,** formed as a first part **molded from a first continuous**
5 **piece of lofted foam material;**

6 a strap section **having an inner portion,** wherein the strap section is formed as a
7 second part **molded from a second continuous piece of said lofted foam material,** and
8 wherein the strap section is attached to the base section such that the strap **contacts and** pivots
9 relative to the base section;

10 wherein the strap section is attached to the base section by a first and a second
11 rivet made of plastic that is denser than the lofted foam material, wherein the first rivet fastens a
12 first end of a strap as section to a first side of the base section, and wherein the second rivet
13 fastens to a second end of the strap section to a second side of the base section;

14 **wherein a frictional force between the strap section and the base section at**
15 **the contact between the inner portion of the strap section and the outer portion of the rear**
16 **sole perimeter maintains the strap section fixed relative to the base section;** and

17 wherein the first rivet is placed at a first attachment point, wherein the second
18 rivet is placed at a second attachment point, wherein the base section includes a upper opening
19 perimeter, wherein the base section includes a rear sole perimeter, wherein the distance from the
20 first attachment point to the second attachment point along the upper opening perimeter is
21 approximately the same distance from the first attachment point to the second attachment point
22 along the strap section; and wherein the distance from the first attachment point to the second
23 attachment point along the rear sole perimeter is approximately the same distance from the first
24 attachment point to the second attachment point along the strap section.